



30 November 2020

City Futures Team
Glen Eira City Council
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Re: City Futures Amendment C214—Post-war and Hidden Gems Heritage Review and Glen Eira Thematic Environmental History (Refresh) 2020

Dear City Futures Team,

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) is pleased to write in support of the recommendations relating to the Post-war and Hidden Gems Heritage Review and Glen Eira Thematic Environmental History (Refresh) 2020.

The National Trust is the state's largest community-based heritage advocacy organisation actively working towards conserving and protecting our heritage for future generations to enjoy, representing 30,000 members across Victoria.

As Victoria's premier heritage and conservation organisation, the National Trust has an interest in ensuring that the wide range of natural, cultural, social, and Indigenous heritage values of the municipality are protected and respected, contributing to strong, vibrant and prosperous communities.

Support for Planning Amendment C214

The National Trust congratulates the City of Glen Eira on progressing this important work which proposes to: introduce the Heritage Overlay to four proposed heritage precincts and 34 proposed individual heritage places; and implement a new municipal wide heritage methodology within the City of Glen Eira Thematic Environmental History (Refresh) 2020.

As a key stakeholder, we were pleased to provide input into the preparation of the Heritage Review, and we strongly advocate for its implementation.

We acknowledge that Amendment C214 implements a number of objectives of planning in Victoria pursuant to Section 4 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, in particular:

- *To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land*
- *To conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value*

This amendment also strongly aligns with the mission of the National Trust to 'inspire the community to appreciate, conserve and celebrate its diverse natural, cultural, social and Indigenous heritage' and vision that our 'diverse heritage is protected and respected, contributing to strong, vibrant and prosperous communities'.

We commend Council in particular for its strategic work to identify and assess post-war heritage places. Despite the historic importance of the post-war period in Melbourne, a period of transformation on a scale not seen since the gold rush, much of our post-war heritage remains vulnerable and without statutory protection. With densification transforming our suburbs, it is becoming increasingly important to document, celebrate, and protect significant post-war heritage, including houses, churches, factories, service stations, and institutional buildings.

This work positions Glen Eira City Council as a leader in the effort to address the gap in post-war heritage protection. We sincerely hope this work will signal to other municipal governments the value of protecting their own post-war heritage places, and how this can contribute to a more holistic understanding of the municipality's history and development.

Thematic Environmental History

We strongly support the 'refresh' of the Council's existing *Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan (1996)*, which is now over two decades old. We note that this document was re-formatted into the thematic framework as defined by Victoria's Framework of Historic Themes, which represents the current industry standard for a Thematic Environmental History (TEH). We also note that this has increased the coverage of heritage themes to provide a broader and more holistic understanding of the municipality's social, industrial, and economic history. This Thematic Environmental History provides a strong foundation for the identification, protection, and celebration of heritage in the City of Glen Eira.

Future Work

We understand that the Heritage Review has been limited in its scope, rather than being a comprehensive review. We note that 100 properties were identified in Stage One of the Heritage Review, however the budget for Stage Two of the project only allowed for 50 full citations to be prepared. We understand that the consultant notes that, at face value, a high percentage of the 100 properties identified were considered likely to meet the threshold for local heritage significance (page 11).

We therefore strongly encourage Council to allocate funding in future budgets to complete detailed assessments of the remaining 50 places, and support the preparation of a future planning scheme amendment to apply the Heritage Overlay to additional places identified as reaching the threshold for local significance. This will ensure that places which contribute to the unique history and development of the municipality do not "fall through the cracks" and are protected from inappropriate development or demolition.

We also note that of the citations prepared, none of the individual places or precincts were recognised for their social significance (Criterion G). Places with social value can include pubs, hotels, theatres and other places of community meeting and congregation, that may be otherwise overlooked in the absence of a high level of architectural or aesthetic significance.

In our role as advocates for significant heritage places, we note that the importance of 'social significance', which in many cases, particularly through the re-development/VCAT process, is generally cast as being of 'lesser' or 'secondary' to architectural or aesthetic significance. We therefore strongly encourage Council to undertake further work to identify intangible cultural

heritage values—and consider how this relates to built fabric—so that the unique history, character, and identity of Glen Eira may be preserved.

We note in particular that following pre-amendment consultation, and as a result of live planning issues, Council resolved on 11 August 2020 to remove both the Caulfield Synagogue at 172 Inkerman Road, and the Kadimah at 7 Selwyn Street, from the amendment. Both had been identified as having historical and architectural significance, and also arguably have a high degree of social significance.

While we understand that elements of these buildings are intended to be incorporated in their respective redevelopments, formal recognition of their heritage values through the planning scheme would have provided a useful mechanism for protecting those values into the future. We generally encourage Councils to pursue heritage overlay protection for significant places regardless of whether there is a live planning application, in the event that the permit expires and/or circumstances change. We encourage Council to keep a “watching brief” on these two sites, and continue to work with their respective owners and communities to ensure the heritage values identified as part of this review are considered in their future management.

As part of any future work to assess heritage places, we encourage Council to prioritise places of social value which may not yet have been recognised for their architectural or historical values, including places of gathering and worship.

We are also pleased to note that Council is currently working on a study about Aboriginal presence within the municipality, which will be made publicly available in mid-2021. While there is currently no Registered Aboriginal Party for the City of Glen Eira, we acknowledge that the Boon Wurrung Foundation, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land Council, and the Bunurong Land Council are all relevant groups for this area of Melbourne, and should be meaningfully consulted during the preparation of this study.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we generally support Planning Scheme Amendment C214 as exhibited, and would welcome the opportunity to provide our support at a future hearing conducted by Planning Panels Victoria.

For any enquiries regarding this submission, please get in touch with this office on 9656 9837 or with me directly at felicity.watson@nattrust.com.au.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Felicity Watson
Executive Manager—Advocacy
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)